

LOWELL H. HOPKINSON.

JANUARY 8, 1897.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. POOLE, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 3785.]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 3785) granting a pension to Lowell H. Hopkinson, having carefully considered the evidence relating thereto, report thereon as follows:

Lowell H. Hopkinson served in Company H, Eleventh Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, from April 20, 1861, to October 25, 1862, when he was honorably discharged on surgeons' certificate of disability, on account of severe wound of right elbow, received at Manassas, Va., August 29, 1862. He served in Company A, Fifty-ninth and Fifty-seventh Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry from November 14, 1863, to July 30, 1865. During this service he was treated for chronic diarrhea and pleurisy contracted while a prisoner of war. He was taken prisoner at Coldharbor, Va., June 3, 1864, and paroled December 10, 1864. He was pensioned under the general law for gunshot wound of left arm and disease of kidneys, and was receiving \$5 per month when, on September 17, 1890, he was allowed a pension of \$8 per month under act of June 27, 1890. He was granted an increase to \$12 under said law, from November 12, 1895, which rate he is now receiving for disease of urinary organs, gunshot wound of left arm, loss of part of right index finger, lumbago, and paralysis.

The certificate of last medical examination rates him two-eighteenths for wound of arm, four-eighteenths for loss of part of index finger, seventeen-eighteenths for paralysis and resulting urinary disease, and ten-eighteenths for malarial poisoning. He requires the regular personal aid and attendance of another person.

The wound of left arm and disease of kidneys are established as of service origin, but the other disabilities are not. If they were he would be entitled to \$72 under the general law. The paralysis and urinary disease are connected by the examining board as cause and effect. Paralysis seems to be the principal disability. Claimant can not rise from his bed without assistance, but by means of a rope, attached to a ring over his bed, he is able to raise his shoulders while an assistant swings him into a wheel chair, where he sits and moves about the room.

Evidence of two credible witnesses, filed with this committee, shows that claimant in his helpless condition has absolutely no means of support aside from his pension of \$12 per month. It is recommended that the bill be amended by striking out the word "fifty," in line 4, and inserting in lieu thereof the word "thirty," and that as amended the bill do pass.